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February 10, 2015

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 3/12/15
SB 294

Senate Local Government Committee
Senators Taylor (Chair), Buttrey, (Vice-Chair),
Pomnichowski (M-Vice-Chair), Barrett, McNally,
Sales, Tutvedt, Vance, and Vuckovich
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

RE: Senate Bill (SB) 294

On behalf of Stockman Bank of Montana I write this letter in support of:

Senate Bill (SB) 294

**"AN ACT REVISING THE AUTHORITY OF A HOSPITAL DISTRICT TO BORROW MONEY;
ALLOWING NOTES ISSUED TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR A HOSPITAL DISTRICT TO MATURE OVER
A TERM NOTE TO EXCEED 30 YEARS IF APPROVED BY THE DISTRICT ELECTORS; AND
AMENDING SECTION 7-34-2131, MCA."**

Senator Frederick "Eric" Moore, Sponsor

- **Senate Bill 294 allows for an extension of a debt term from a maximum of fifteen (15) years to a maximum of (30) years if it is approved by the voters for the hospital district.**
- **Senate Bill 294 allows for local control of important health care projects that involve capital improvements of a longer life span or requiring longer terms to pay off.**
- **Bonding is generally more complicated and is restricted by assessed valuations which can be low in rural counties and often takes local lenders out of the options.**
- **Hospital facilities in rural areas need all the tools possible to ensure their sustainability. They are critical economic drivers for local communities and very critical medical facilities for our vast rural areas.**

My regards,

Jere L. Freiboth
VP/Branch Manager
Stockman Bank of Montana
Terry Branch
117 Logan Avenue
Terry, Montana

cc: Senator Jennifer Fielder and Senator Frederick "Eric" Moore



Member FDIC